



Our Story Annual Report

SERVICE DELIVERY PROMOTING QUALITY OF LIFE

Message from the Chair

2019 has been a year of transition for the Board. Lauris Olson began the third year of her term; she was joined by me in January. Then Lisa Heddens joined us in June to serve a vacated term through December of 2020. Everyone has dug in, but we all have our own specialties: Lauris with economic development, transportation and housing; Lisa with mental health and human services, and me with public safety and conservation issues.

We are working on a county-wide housing assessment (long overdue for an update), helping shape the children's mental health system mandated by the Legislature, creating a new public safety communication system called StoryComm and implementing the recommendations on the countywide watershed assessment. Please read through this annual report to learn about these and many other projects being undertaken by Story County.

Many thanks to the Supervisors who came before us – we are building on the great foundation laid by them – and to our dedicated employees and community members who make Story County such a great place.



Supervisor
Linda Murken

**EFFECTIVE
JANUARY 1, 2020
BUILDING HOURS FOR
THE STORY COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING AND JUSTICE
CENTER, BOTH IN NEVADA,
ARE FROM
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, MONDAY
THROUGH FRIDAY**

Story County Treasurer's Office Year in Review

2019 was an exciting year for the Story County Treasurer's Office with some new faces and partnerships, but a continued focus on providing excellent service to the citizens of Story County. Ted Rasmusson was sworn in on January 2nd to begin his first term, and with one staff opening and another member transferring to the Sheriff's Office, the team also welcomed Katelyn Carey and Sedaña Siguas to Story County this spring.

The Treasurer's Office supports the motor vehicle needs of county residents conducting title transfers, registration renewals, and assisting with other Iowa DOT related questions and issues. One of these issues included the release of the new "Blackout" license plates. The state initially underestimated the demand of the plate style, leading the county to run out after two weeks. However, supplies have now been increased to meet the demands and office has plenty of plates available for residents. The office also works closely with the Iowa DOT, including serving on committees, providing significant support and input in their software development, and assisting in policy development.

The Treasurer's Office collects property taxes for the county and disburses them to the other local taxing entities (schools, cities, hospitals, etc.). It is also responsible for conducting the banking for the county. The office updated its investment policy and practices this spring to keep in compliance while also maximizing Story County residents return on their tax dollars. The Treasurer's Office started a new partnership this year for the mailing of Property Tax Statements. The Master's Touch is the new partner (Story County Assessor's Office also partnered with them) and will allow residents to now receive their tax statements via verified email.

A new development in the Treasurer's Office is that the office now opens to the public at 9:30 am on the second Tuesday of each month. This was done to improve communication within the department and allow the staff development time. This development time is spent ensuring the team is always up to date because Iowa Code and Iowa DOT procedures are ever evolving. It is also used to address consistency and efficiency improvements so the team is always able to provide Story County citizens with the most effective and accurate service possible.

The Treasurer's Office saw some changes through 2019, but it remained consistent in its desire to give back to the community, especially regarding our troops and veterans. In October the office assisted the Blue Star Mothers of Iowa in their supply drive for holiday care packages. The care packages are sent to Iowa troops deployed overseas during the holidays, and help the soldiers feel a little touch of home as they are serving their country. The Treasurer's Office also assisted Story County Veterans Affairs with their annual supply drive for the Iowa Veterans Home, which provides housing and support to over 500 Iowa veterans and their spouses.

Facilities Management Diligently at Work Maintaining Buildings

Story County Facilities Management serves as the support team behind the workings of the County government. The Department provides the building security, safety, and operating infrastructure to serve the offices and departments that serve the citizens of Story County.

In July 2019, the new roofing system at the Justice Center was complete. The new roof consists of a high density cover board with a new 72-mil, thermo-bonded P.V.C. white membrane. This is an upgrade from the existing 48-mil membrane, and the high density cover board gives an added layer of protection to help prevent hail damage in the future. This new roofing system has a 20-year warranty and a 35-year life expectancy. This project started back in May of 2018 when a major hail event damaged the existing roof, putting over 400 holes in the membrane. The insurance company deemed the roof a total loss and the process of replacement began. Due to design and weather delays, it took about 14 months to see the project come to completion.

Another major project milestone was a new commercial grade 6" thick asphalt parking area and driveway at the Animal Control facility. This is one of the pieces of the Animal Control remodel. The new asphalt parking area replaced an aging part asphalt, part gravel parking area. The existing parking area suffered from heaving, cracking, and chipping of the asphalt. The gravel portion of the parking area was due to be replaced; there were large areas of erosion and improper grading. The new parking area is of a commercial grade and should remain for many years, accommodating the large amounts of traffic this building receives on a weekly basis.

A large portion of what the Facilities Management Department does is preventative maintenance to the County-owned buildings and building systems.

In practice, a preventive maintenance schedule may include things such as cleaning, lubrication, oil changes, adjustments, changing filters and belts on HVAC equipment, repairs, inspecting and replacing



parts, and partial or complete overhauls that are regularly scheduled. This includes all HVAC equipment and fleet vehicles.

Aside from equipment maintenance, there are a number of systems on which monthly inspections are conducted. Examples of these systems are fire alarms, security systems, access control systems, and building automation system. Unplanned maintenance or equipment break downs typically cost three to nine times more than planned maintenance. This program generally coincides with an equipment replacement schedule. For example, HVAC equipment is usually on a 25-30 year rotation (meaning that is the expected

lifespan of the equipment), and vehicles can be based on mileage or 10 years. Machinery is generally replaced based on hours of operation, or when annual repair costs are 35%-50% of the total replacement value.

Even the best preventative maintenance program will not prevent the need to replace equipment due to the manufacturer no longer supporting the equipment. This is the situation facing Story County with the HVAC equipment located at our Justice Center facility. As of 2019, we have started a complete replacement of all the HVAC equipment. The total number of HVAC units is just over 100 at this facility. The building is about 18 years old and the majority of this building is in operation 24 hours a day 365 days a year. This leads to equipment running 2 to 3 times more often than the average commercial building and leads to less than average equipment life expectancy. On top of the heavy use of the equipment, in 2016 the manufacturer of the existing equipment was bought out by a competitor and they began to no longer support this equipment.

Finding replacement parts is beginning to be a challenge. With this, and the overall age/condition of the equipment, Story County has chosen to plan a replacement schedule of all the equipment. This schedule is a three-phase project, taking approximately 3 years to complete. The phases are broken up based on how critical the equipment is and by the overall cost of each phase. The first round of equipment replacement is scheduled to start in 2020. The design and engineering phase of the project began in early spring and the completion of phase 1 should be by or in the summer of 2020. This phase consists of all roof and interior mounted HVAC equipment in the jail housing portion of the building. The entire project will include incorporating most current code requirements, along with the equipment replacement.



SERVICE DELIVERY PROMOTING QUALITY OF LIFE

Planning and Development Activities throughout 2019

16 lots created for single family dwellings

Story County Planning and Development worked on an ambitious work program throughout 2019, bringing forward new implementation strategies, regulations and planning approaches to help guide development activities in unincorporated areas of Story County.

The Board of Supervisors adopted an amendment to the stormwater and erosion control ordinance. The ordinance clarifies the County's standards, establishes minimum requirements from the Iowa Stormwater Management Manual, including design criteria addressing the volume and rate of

stormwater runoff permitted for developments that disturb over one acre and requires an Iowa licensed engineer to prepare a stormwater plan.

The stormwater ordinance applies to parcels where over one acre is developed and the erosion control ordinance applies to parcels where less than an acre is disturbed.

NextEra Energy obtained a Conditional Use Permit from the Story County Board of Adjustment to convert 100 existing wind turbines - Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) - located in Warren, Lincoln, and Sherman Townships. The project includes changing out blades, generators and gears in each of the WECS and is valued at \$103,250,000.

\$276,000
Average value of a new home

\$61,000
Average value of a mobile home

Landus Cooperative obtained zoning permits for the construction of a new office, grain storage bins, elevator, and scale at their existing facility located at 69866 Highway 210th Street near Collins.

The Planning and Development Department reviewed and filed 109 appeals to the U.S. Census Bureau regarding address points for single family dwellings in certain cities and in the unincorporated area of Story County. This review is in preparation for the 2020 Census.

The table below illustrates zoning permit activity throughout unincorporated Story County as well as the numbers of various development review cases processed by the Department.

Types of Uses	Zoning Permits				
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Totals
SFD*	3	9	10	10	32
Other	10	40	31	10	91
Types of Cases	Development Cases				
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Totals
Conditional Uses	1	5	4	1	11
Subdivisions	3	7	0	2	12
Variations	2	1	1	0	4
Rezoning	1	1	1	0	3

Connecting with Veterans throughout Story County



Annual Story County Supermarket of Veterans Benefits

The annual Supermarket was held Friday, November 15, 2019. Throughout the day, those attending had the opportunity to meet with various Local, State and Federal agencies and better understand benefits available to Veterans and spouses. This event continues to grow and bring more awareness of existing programs.



During 2019, Story County Veterans Affairs Director Brett McLain spent time visiting the towns in Story County, bringing Veterans Affairs right to the citizens. Veterans Affairs set up shop at City Halls, Community Centers, or at American Legions.

Story County is going to continue this effort into 2020. Watch for flyers when Brett comes to your town.

No appointments are needed...simply stop by and spend some time discussing programs and benefits. The overall goal of the hometown outreach program is to give Veterans another opportunity to check on their benefits and ask questions.



Homecoming for Corporal Ralph L. Bennett

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that Army Cpl. Ralph L. Bennett, 22, of Ames, Iowa, killed during World War II, was accounted for on April 29, 2019.

In June 1944, Bennett was a member of Headquarters Company, 209th Engineer Combat Battalion, as an engineer in the China-Burma-India Theater. On June 13, 1944, Bennett's battalion fought in the siege of Myitkyina, Burma, after successfully taking the airfield west of Myitkyina from Japanese control. Bennett was reported to have been killed during the battle.

The remains of servicemen killed during the battle were buried in at least eight different temporary cemeteries and numerous isolated burial locations. Eventually, all known burials were concentrated into the U.S. Military Cemetery at Myitkyina, including the remains of those who were not identified. In January and February 1946, all of the remains at the U.S. Military Cemetery were disinterred and transferred to the U.S. Military Cemetery at Kalaikunda, India. The exhumation of the U.S. Military Cemetery at Kalaikunda was conducted in September and October 1947.

One set of remains, designated Unknown X-48 Kalaikunda, was reportedly disinterred on Oct. 21, 1947 and transferred to Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, where they were unable to be identified. They were subsequently buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu, HI in March 1949.

On July 16, 2018, DPAA disinterred Unknown X-48 Kalaikunda from the Punchbowl and accessioned the remains into the laboratory.

To identify Bennett's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis.

DPAA is grateful to the Department of Veterans Affairs for their partnership in this recovery.

Of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II, more than 400,000 died during the war. Currently there are 72,708 service members (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II. Bennett's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in Taguig City, Philippines, along with the others missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.



Bennett was buried Aug. 3, 2019 in Ames next to his brother, mother, and father.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil or call (703) 699-1420/1169.

Bennett's personnel profile can be viewed at <https://dpaa.secure.force.com/dpaaProfile?id=a0Jt0000000ccR8EAI>



SERVICE DELIVERY PROMOTING QUALITY OF LIFE

Looking Forward to Elections in 2020

If 2018 was any indication, 2020 voting interest promises to be at an all-time high.

The best way to prepare? Make sure you are registered to vote at your current address. If your registration is up-to-date, you are in great shape. If you move during the calendar year, be sure to update your registration.

Dates to remember

- Monday, February 3 – presidential partisan caucuses. Contact the party of your choice for more information.
- Tuesday, March 3 – special elections will be held for several school districts
- Tuesday, June 2 – Primary Election. Polls open 7 am to 9 pm
- Tuesday, November 3 – General Election. Polls open 7 am to 9 pm

Contact the Auditor's Office with any questions. We are here to help. Phone 515-382-7210 or online at www.storycountyia.gov/91/Auditor-Elections

Election Officials Wanted

Interested in how elections work? The Auditor's Office wants your help! We need poll workers, election technicians, absentee board members, and temporary office workers. Visit the website and fill out an interest, or call the office or stop by.

Big elections require hundreds of precinct workers; it's hard work but essential to our nation. And it's paid!

Historic Property Records Now Available Online

The Auditor's Office and the Recorder's Office are co-hosting the County's historic property records on the web. The County's older records were recently digitized by Cott Systems. Scanned transfer books and deeds ensure both improved public access and preservation of official records.

Environmental Health in 2019

The Story County Environmental Health Department is under the jurisdiction of the Story County Board of Health. The Environmental Health Department is small but mighty. With over 50 combined years of Story County employment for Stephanie Jones, Matt Cory, Cathy Bazylinski, and Margaret Jaynes, we are frequently called upon to advise sanitarians, realtors, and attorneys from central Iowa and provide training to the new Boone County Code Enforcer and the Hamilton County Sanitarian.

We contracted with Schneider to add septic and well information to Story County's Beacon website. After many meetings with concerned citizens and a hearing before the Iowa Environmental Protection Council, we worked with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to oversee the construction of three hog confinements in Richland Township.

Environmental Health participates in the County Watershed Assessment Workgroup, and is involved in surface water sampling of our streams and rivers. We distributed 49 radon kits, and answered umpteen calls on mold, bedbugs, roaches, landlord tenant issues, manure management, sewage, odors, water quality, and trailer park complaints. We work with Planning & Development, reviewing subdivision proposals, home business permits, variances and zoning applications. We review the Recorder's requests for parcel splits and surveys.

The Department partners with Emergency Management to prepare for the possibility of African Swine Flu, and also participates in the EOC training. In December, a stakeholders meeting for proposed septic regulations was held and a presentation to DNR regarding Story County case studies. We look forward to working with the Board of Health and the Board of Supervisors in 2020 to protect and enhance environmental quality for our community.

PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS

2019

Story County Environmental Health

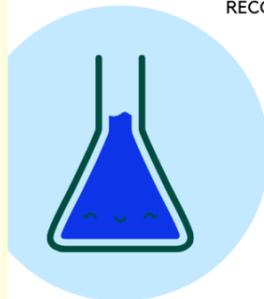


WE INSPECTED

- 54 POOLS,
- 6 TATTOO PARLORS, AND
- 20 TANNING BEDS.

WE DESIGNED, PERMITTED AND INSPECTED

- 82 SEPTIC SYSTEMS,
- OVERSAW 23 SEPTIC REPAIRS,
- REVIEWED 93 TIME OF TRANSFER INSPECTIONS, AND
- INSPECTED 3 SEPTIC PUMPER COMPANY'S TRUCKS AND RECORDS.



WE ISSUED

- 21 WELL PERMITS WERE ISSUED FOR GEOTHERMAL AND WATER WELLS, AND
- 113 WELL WATER SAMPLES WERE COLLECTED.

IN EFFORTS TO PROTECT LOCAL AQUIFERS, WE ADMINISTERED

THE GRANT-TO-COUNTIES PROGRAM, PLUGGING 15 AND REHABILITATING 3 WELLS.



Water Quality Plan Implementation

In early 2017, the Story County Board of Supervisors and the Story County Conservation Board partnered with a consulting firm to develop countywide watershed assessments throughout Story County.

The comprehensive assessment identifies watershed specific goals and develops implementation strategies addressing education, outreach and water quality improvement goals. It was completed and approved in FY19. Story County is leading the state as the first county to look at watersheds at the countywide level and we are embarking on the first steps towards improved water quality in Story County.



Drainage District News

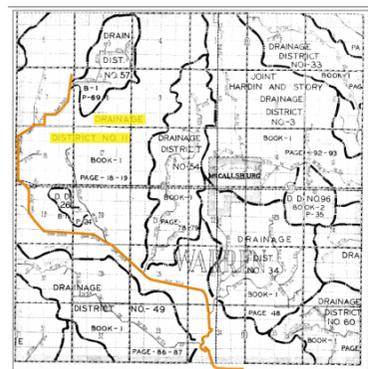
Drainage districts are watersheds served by drainage tile and/or man-made waterways or natural waterways that have been straightened and cleared of trees and brush.

Story County has 123 drainage districts. District law dates to the 1890's and is found in Chapter 468 of the Code of Iowa. Much of Story County (and Iowa) was originally wetlands and not suitable for agriculture. Drainage districts were created at the request of the landowners they serve who petitioned the County Board of Supervisors to create the districts.

The Supervisors serve as Drainage District Trustees and maintain the districts for the benefit of the district landowners unless those owners elect their own trustees. The cost of district upkeep is billed to the landowners in proportion to the benefit each parcel of land receives from the district.

While districts were created for agricultural purposes several districts include parts of cities, either intentionally, or because those cities annexed into the districts. When development occurs inside a district it is advisable to check for tile locations. The County Engineer and Auditor both have maps of Story County's Drainage Districts.

The Story County Board of Supervisors, acting in the capacity of the Drainage District Trustees, met over 20 times in 2019, considering requests for drainage district improvements throughout Story County.



2019 Presented Challenges to Secondary Roads

After one of our best years ever in 2018 for spring gravel road conditions, 2019 was a particularly challenging year for our secondary gravel road system. After the February cold temperatures and blizzards, a perfect storm of weather conditions through late winter and spring caused gravel roads throughout the State of Iowa to be extremely soft. The deep frost took months to thaw out which resulted in frost boils on nearly every mile of our 700-mile gravel road system making some roads nearly impassable. The only practical remedy was time, which allowed the roads to thaw and dry out enough to support heavier traffic again.

The roads finally firmed up in June and we were able to blade the roads back into shape and haul new rock to many locations. Our plan is to increase our rock budget for the next couple of years in order to restore as much rock as possible on our gravel road system and we are hoping for a more normal spring thaw this year.



During the 2019 summer construction season, we were able to replace 7 bridges and also completed a 5.5 mile asphalt overlay project on E63 near Collins.

SERVICE DELIVERY PROMOTING QUALITY OF LIFE

Heart of Iowa Nature Trail Paving

The Heart of Iowa Nature Trail was recently selected as part of the Great American Rail Trail route -- an iconic piece of American infrastructure that connects more than 125 existing trails and 90 trail gaps over 3,700+ miles between Washington, D.C., and Washington State. Story County Conservation is looking forward to this new and exciting partnership with Rails to Trails Conservancy. This trail route will increase exposure and use for the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail and continue to help us build momentum as we look to improve and develop this great recreational opportunity for Story County and surrounding communities.

The stretch of trail between Slater and Huxley was paved. The cost was approximately \$650,000 to pave and was 75% funded by grants. Story County Conservation will continue to seek grant funding to pave the remainder of the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail.



Story County Conservation manages more than 3,100 acres of parks and natural areas, including lakes, campgrounds, and trails, and an additional 5,500 acres of roadside habitat through our Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management program. The environmental education staff serves Story County schools and the public with interpretive and informational programs for all ages. Story County Conservation's volunteer program provides volunteer opportunities to individuals and groups interested in making a difference in local natural resources.

Hickory Grove Lake Restoration Continued throughout 2019

The Hickory Grove Lake Restoration was underway for all of 2019. This project will see lake improvements such as deepening through sediment removal, boat ramp and parking improvements, a bridge to the island, new fishing jetties and angler access improvements, as well as a complete fisheries species and habitat renovation. A pipe was also installed through the dam allowing lake drawdown for management purposes in the future.

This project is the final piece of a greater water quality improvement plan for the park's watershed. Overall this project should greatly increase the quality and experience for lake users at Hickory Grove. The lake is anticipated to reopen to the public in the spring of 2020.

Are you interested in learning more about Story County Conservation parks and programs?

Visit mycountyparks.com/County/Story.aspx to register for programs and reserve facilities.



Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor

The park is open and ready to explore! We cut the ribbon on Friday, June 28, 2019 and celebrated with ice cream, music, and family activities.

some quiet time alongside the stream. We hope you stop by and connect with nature. Thank you to all the partners who helped make this park a reality.

Have you visited this unique community space yet? It's a park unlike any other that Story County Conservation manages. Work on your laptop thanks to charging stations powered by solar panels, reap the physical and mental benefits of a walk, or spend

The final phase is to connect the park to the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail, High Trestle Trail, and surrounding communities. This route will extend from University Boulevard to county highway R-38. Design is underway.

NOTIFY ME INSTRUCTIONS



Want to "be in the know" about what is happening in Story County Government? Sign-up for Notify Me!

Step One:
Go to the website: www.storycountyiowa.gov

Step Two:
Click on 'Notify Me' on the Home Page of the County website

Step Three:
Enter your email address in the appropriate box and select either 'text' or 'email notification by clicking on the appropriate symbol next to each type of alert.

Please sign in to subscribe, unsubscribe, or manage your subscriptions

Email Address

METHOD	LIST NAME	DESCRIPTION
<input type="checkbox"/>	CP - Test	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Job Interest Card	Job Notification
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheriff's Press Releases	Media releases from the Story County Sheriff.

METHOD	LIST NAME	DESCRIPTION
<input type="checkbox"/>	Auditor & Elections	

You will receive a verification email after completing these steps.

OFFICE AND DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Office/Department	Telephone	Office/Department	Telephone
Animal Control	(515) 382-3338	Recorder's Office	(515) 382-7230
Attorney	(515) 382-7255	Human Resources	(515) 382-7204
Auditor's Office	(515) 382-7210	Information Technology	(515) 382-7300
Board of Supervisors	(515) 382-7200	Planning & Development	(515) 382-7245
Community Services	(515) 663-2930	Sheriff's Office	(515) 382-6566
Conservation	(515) 232-2516	<i>Emergency Assistance throughout Story County 9-1-1</i>	
County Assessor	(515) 382-7320	Administration	(515) 382-6566
County Outreach & Special Projects	(515) 382-7247	Communications	(515) 382-6566
Emergency Management	(515) 382-7316	Civil Division	(515) 382-7473
Engineer & Secondary Roads	(515) 382-7355	Jail	(515) 382-7464
Environmental Health	(515) 382-7240	Treasurer & Motor Vehicles	(515) 382-7340
Facilities Management	(515) 382-7400	Veterans Affairs	(515) 956-2625

www.storycountyiowa.gov

STORY COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

County Attorney
Jessica Reynolds

County Sheriff
Paul Fitzgerald

County Auditor
Lucy Martin

County Treasurer
Ted Rasmusson

County Recorder
Stacie Herridge

Supervisor
Lauris Olson

Supervisor
Lisa Heddens

Supervisor
Linda Murken